cession in some cases, higher cost, power shortage and frequent breakdowns.

The steps taken by Government to overcome these problems include modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipment, technology up-gradation, regular monitoring of performance, re-deployment and rationalisation of surplus manpower, training and retraining of personnel and adoption of various cost control measures.

Expansion of Rupnarayanpur unit of Hindustan Cable

913. DR R K. PODDAR :
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Govt's consideration for the expansion of Hindustan Cable's Rupnarayanpur Unit in West Bengal,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM) . (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for expansion of capacity by 18 lakh Conductor Kilometers (CKM) for manufacture of Jelly Filled Cables in Rupnarayanpur Unit of Hindustan Cables Ltd. was earlier considered by the Govt. but was deferred pending finalisation of targets for telecommunication projections for 7th Plan. However, owing to demand as also resource constraints no further progress could be made so far Meanwhile, the company has been advised to revise the cost estimates of the project.

(c) Does not arise.

Rationalisation of work force in Public Sector Enterprises

914. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :
SHRI M A. BABY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector enterprises have been asked to prepare schemes for the rationalisation of their work force;

(b) if so, what is the response from the units, and

(c) by when the schemes are likely to be made public ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Rationalisation work force in Public Sector Undertakings is a Management function of the concerned Public Sector Undertakings. No specific instructions were issued in this regard to the Public Sector Undertakings

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Closing down of paper mills

915. SHRI SURESH KALMADI . Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of paper mills have been closed down for varying periods due to shortage of forest based raw materials, erratic movement of coal supplies, etc. during the last one year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of paper mills were unable to sell their entire production resulting in growing accumulation of stocks; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the situation with a view to meeting the long term and immediate requirements of paper industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) No specific reports about the closure of paper mills during the year for reasons of shortage of forest raw material or non-availability of coal have been received.